SOUTHERN FARM NOTES.

TOPICS OF INTEREST TO THE PLANTER, STOCKMAN AND TRUCK GROWER.

Soil-Binding Grasses.

The "good roads" movement during the last few years has caused the building of many thousands of miles of graded country roads. In building these roads, in order to secure a uniform grade it is necessary to cut through hills and raise embankments on low stretches. Such work is very costly, yet in driving over these rouds in many neighborhoods we find that within a year after the building the embankments are damaged by washing to one-fourth or more of the original cost. This damage is to a large extent inexcusable, resulting from ignorance or carelessness of those responsible for the preservation of the road after it has been built.

We have a number of soil binding grasses and legumines which at a comparatively trifling cost can be made to cover road embankments in a very short time, and which when once established will prevent damage by washing. Among such grasses we may name for the cotton States, Bermuda grass, Louisiana grass, red fescue grass and white clover. For more northern regions where Bermuda grass does not flourish we have Couch grass, red fescue, Anniess brome, white clover, yellow trefoil and many species of the Desmodiums. Where the soil is very sandy, and for preventing beach sands from blowing over cultivated land, we must employ grasses specially adapted for such soils. The best of these are the Lyme grasses, Spartinas and Bitter Panic grass. The lupines are legumes likely to thrive on sandy soil. The best of these for this use is Lupinus perennis.

All the plants herein named are hardy for the localities mentioned, and with careful preparation and fertilization they may be sown at any time of the year, or whenever the road is made. None of these grasses or legumes should be sown alone, for holding the soil. Sow a mixture of all, including always a good percentage of legumes which in addition to holding the soil will act as feeders for the grasses. Too much care cannot be exercised in securing good seed, since unless the seed is fresh and vigorous germination will be slow and much damage may be done before the ground is covered.

The seed bed should be made as fine as possible, and except in lime stone regions a coating of water slaked lime should be raked in before the seed is sown. A good complete fertilizer containing easily soluble plant food should also be applied either before or just after the seed is sown. A good fertilizer for this purpose is as follows:

Cottonseed meal	800 lbs.
Superphosphate	700 lbs.
Muriate of potash	500 lbs.

Mix and apply at rate of 600 to 1000 pounds per acre.—Gerald McCarthy, Botanist, North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

South a Corn Growing Country.

Two hundred and thirty-seven bushels of corn was grown on an acre in South Carolina, and the highest average for an entire county was grown in Issaquena County, Miss., in 1879. It is true that the average yield per acre is less in the Southern States than in the Northwestern States, but it is also true that the heaviest yields for a single field, or for a single county, have been made in the South. It has always been the custom in the South to give the best soil and the best labor to cotton, because it was cotton that brought the money; and that the corn fields received only such care and labor as could be spared from the cotton. Usually corn has been grown only for plantation use. To grow more of it could be done at the expense of the cotton crop, a contingency that could hardly be thought of, and if by reason of a wrong estimate, not enough was grown for this purpose, it could be bought with the cash received for the cotton. To grow pork for plantation use would necessitate more land and labor devoted to corn and would be an additional tax on the cotton, a thought repugnant to every old-fashioned Southern farmer who believed that the financial sun revolved around the cotton field, and that it was the duty of the farmer to keep himself in the light of its rays. It was considered a waste of time for a farmer to try to grow a large amount of corn on a small amount of ground when all this extra effort might be devoted to cotton. The result was inevitable that such yields would average but an insignificent figure. And even at this day, when wrong methods are giving way to right ones, a compromise has been made in the case of cotton vs. corn, by planting more of the latter, but giving more and better cultivation to the former, so that the average yield of corn in the South is still ridiculously low. Land for corn should be deeply broken early in winter and it should not have gone longer than one year without a crop of cowpeas, which will mellow the soil in a manner and to a depth nearly impossible to plow. Then after corn is planted, it should be given frequent, but shallow cultivation, such as will leave the soil as near level os possible. And as a preparation for the cotton crop to follow and the corn crop to follow the cotton, cowpeas should be placed in the corn at its last working. Then if stable manure is added, and if the soil is deficient in potash or phosphoric acid, applications of kainit and acid phosphate are made, the conditions for heavy yield of corn are present.—Farm and Ranch.

Raising Mules.

The advantage of a mule over a horse is he can be taught to turn shorter, thus preventing the breaking down of vegetables or other plants. He can go in rougher places, is not affected by heat as badly as the horse, and requires less attention in the way of currying, rubbing, etc. His feet being smaller, he can walk closer to the row of growing plants.

To make a good mule worth from $50 to $80 at weaning time or $140 to $160 as a two-year-old, he should be foaled from a large mare in April or May. He should run with the dam until October 1, then be weaned. At this time he should be at least fifty-two inches. Put him in a large shed with plenty of light and feed oats, with clover and timothy hay. Too much corn fevers the legs and produces scratches. The next summer he should have access to the pasture, with a little corn each day, until cold weather, when he should be brought back to the barn. At two or two and a half years old he should be sixteen hands high, fat, and ready for market.

When feeding, care should be given to keep out scratches. The following is a good cure: Take equal parts of bluestone, white vitriol and verdigris, grind together with parts of soapstone, mix with warm water until about as thin as paste, apply with a swab on the end of a stick about three times a week.

Mule colts are no more troublesome than horse colts. The colts run with their mothers, but a separate pasture is required for two-year-old mules.

Growing Protein For Dairy Cows.

A recent bulletin by the Tennessee station treats upon the "Relative Value of Protein in Cotton-Seed Meal, Cowpea Hay and Wheat Bran." We will enumerate the conclusion of the experiment.

Cottonseed meal is one of the richest of protein foods, but it must be fed sparingly, as it has a tendency to produce nervous derangement of the cow's system.

Only about half as much food is consumed in making a gallon of milk as in making a pound of butter.

The smallest amount of roughage consumed in making a pound of butter was 43.8 pounds, in which thirteen pounds of cowpea hay was substituted for four pounds of cottonseed meal.

This was with a group of three cows. The highest amount of concentrates consumed for a pound of butter was by group 1, which took 9.2 pounds, or 3.2 pounds more than group 3, and 5.2 pounds more than group 2.

This shows that the substitution of pea hay for wheat bran in group 2, and for cottonseed meal in group 3 greatly reduced the cost of concentrates.

It was proved by this experiment that one and a quarter pounds of chopped cowpea hay was equal to one pound of bran, and three pounds of the chopped pea hay was equal to one pound of cottonseed meal.

Wintering Colts.

It is a well-known fact, says the Texas Farmer, that horses and colts that run out in the winter thrive, providing they are provided with comfortable shelter nights and have a feed of good hay and a fair ration of grain. They are animals provided by nature with a heavy coat and are well adapted to withstand the rigors of winter. They will thrive better under a common sense regime than by petting and pampering. A successful Eastern breeder says: "The shelter should not be drafty, of course, but it should not be so nearly airtight that it will not ventilate itself on cold nights. The foul air in the close and warm stable is far more injurious to the colts and horses than clean, pure air of almost any low temperature can possibly be. Blanketing is oftener overdone than underdone. The horse standing in a blanket on a cold night may be seriously affected when the blanket is thrown off in the morning. If he stands blanketed night and day during the cold spells he will get into such condition that he will take cold easily when a draft hits him. Coddling is one thing the horse cannot stand. Cold weather coddling in particular is calculated to weaken him. Treat him on natural lines in the winter and he will respond by getting into and by remaining in good condition."

A criminal is a man who is found out.

FOR THE FAIR

UTILITY BOXES.

Utility boxes have made a stand for themselves and are looked upon as being as useful as dressing glasses and bureaus. The most expensive are of leather and have something of the appearance of an old-time chest. Others are made of suede in tones of any dark, rich color, and are covered inside with suitable cotton texture. It is only when employing a thinner fabric that they should be padded, because the rough places in the box are sure to injure and cut away the cloth.

WINTER BLUE.

In spite of the usual autumnal predilection for browns, myrtle green and plum color, there can be no shadow of doubt that the novelty so far is in imported robes of the brilliant shade properly called winter blue. These must not be confounded with navy blue or the duller shades of that popular color.

Winter blues are clear and bright. No one can say of them that is a gray blue or a dingy purpled-blue.

Winter blue is blue, and it is bright. Just what is desired for a long-coated two-piece suit for out of doors.

BUILT BY WOMEN.

The recently dedicated Christian Church, at Muncie, Ind., was built chiefly by the hands of women. They carried the hods, brought the water, mixed the mortar and helped to lay the foundation of the little chapel. There was little money with which to construct the building so greatly needed, the parishioners being poor, the men of the congregation being compelled to labor for a living, so the women volunteered. All summer long in the hot sun and into the fall they toiled and now their hopes are realized. The leaders of the work were Mrs. Mabalia Rhoades, Mrs. M. J. Shaner and Mrs. Elizabeth Tinsley.

CLEANSING HAIR BRUSHES.

Good hair brushes are costly items, and a way to keep the bristles stiff and clean for years is worth knowing. A Russian coiffeur gives this recipe: Have ready two basins; put a lump of soda the size of a walnut in one and three parts fill it with boiling water; the other basin should be three parts filled with water as cold as you can get it, to which you have added sufficient lemon juice or good white vinegar to give it a noticeably acid taste. Shake the bristles of the brush well up and down in the boiling water till they are clean, then at once rinse them thoroughly in the cold water and stand them up to dry in the air or in a warm place, but not too near the fire. Of course, the backs of the brushes must not be wetted.

WOMEN BOOKSELLERS.

Curio shops are largely in the hands of women, but though women writers of books are legion, women sellers of books are conscicuous by their absence. Has the trade of the bookseller no charm for women?

It has been suggested, and with apparent reason, that a charming woman, with delicacy of feeling and tact, might establish a book shop in any fashionable thoroughfare and attract to it all the most famous and fashionable people of the day, making it, in fact, something of a salon.

Of course, special personal qualifications would be necessary, and probably they are not often found in the woman possessing the requisite capital. Still, that is no matter, for the opening is for one, not for the many, and that one would probably be that rara avis, the business woman who finds her work entirely to her mind and a real pleasure. Establishments something on this order are flourishing in England, having grown from modest little shops for the sale and exchange of books to widely known places where one may revel in rare volumes and antique furniture.

HYGIENE FOR HEALTHY FACES.

Since the study of cutaneous affections has been made a medical specialty the dermatologists find themselves in constant dispute with hygienists concerning the employment of warm water or cold water for bathing the face, so much so that it has remained an open question even for shaving. In my opinion, it is best to continue the practice that one has been following from childhood. In any case, so much is certain—that cold water may produce accidents, most of which one can avoid by using warm water. For one thing, microbes and parasites thrive better in cold water than in warm. Furthermore, few things irritate the tender skin of women more than the acute difference between the temperature of very cold water and very warm dressing rooms. With full-blooded persons cold water turns the face red, and the cold calling for the counter effect of friction tempts fender-skinned women to use soothing soaps, which in turn dissolve the fatty substances and leave the skin exhausted and drier than ever.

Second only in importance to the question of water is that of soap. Only persons with fat skin should use chemically pure soaps, and these with moderation; as for women with dry skins, they should abstain from the use of soap altogether, replacing it with either fresh cream of milk or cold cream freshly prepared.—Woman's Home Companion.

Boudoir Chat.

One-half of all the women in Massachusetts who are able to work are wage earners.

Annie Russell, the actress, has a handkerchief carried by Marie Antoinette on her way to her execution.

Queen Wilhelmina and the Sultan of Turkey are the only reigning monarchs who are teetotallers. Holland's Queen is, furthermore, an earnest temperance worker.

The Countess of Limerick, the recognized beauty of Ireland, who is equally popular in Dublin and Ireland, has arranged to appear in the latter city during the winter in a series of piano recitals.

An Irish woman, Miss Douglass, has been appointed to the post of horticultural lecturer by the County Council of Louth, the first woman appointed to such a post in Ireland, and over men competitors.

Miss Eleanor Lemcke, daughter of Captain J. A. Lemcke, one of the wealthiest citizens of Indianapolis, has given up her beautiful home and gone to Chicago to work in the Hull House Settlement.

In the opinion of the editor of the Mirror, a paper printed in English in British India, "American womanhood is admittedly the finest, the very best, physically and intellectually, of all the womanhood of the world."

Mrs. Parker, or "Mother" Parker, as she is called, who has labored for thirty-four years under the American board in the Hawaiian Islands, is now in her ninety-eighth year, and is able to receive her guests at her home in Gilbertina, in Manoa Valley.

Basqued bodices and coats find much favor.

Serge is still a favorite material for hard wearing gowns.

Button effect patterns are among the latest in embroideries.

Monkey skin is seen in combination with ermine and miniver for fancy neck pieces.

Three tones of one color in ribbon formed the novel trimming of one of the new hats.

The favorite walking costume will not be overloaded with gathers and pleatings this season.

Crushed velvet, particularly in black and silver gray, is to be much used for very handsome toilettes.

A broad network and fringe of very thick chenille on the edge of fur stoles and pelerines is very new.

There is a strong liking for fancy cloths, and at the same time plain clothes are much in demand.

Pretty Swiss shaped satin belts, narrow at the sides and forming a deep point back and front, are the fashion of the moment.

An all-white gown is the smartest for reception wear, and can be in lightweight cloth, embroidered silk, crepe de chine, chiffon, or batiste.

In the spangled robes to be so much worn for evening this season the net and the spangles are always of the same color. Some of the prettiest novelties are very delicately tinted.

The little capes which have been a feature of the coats for some time are longer than formerly, and the indications are that they will form a sleeve, falling in folds around the arm.

A touch of pale blue of burnt orange is effectively introduced into the embroidery of the front of the waist of the costumes of golden brown crepe de chine, so fashionable this autumn.

"Mountain" Paper Weight.

The German Emperor uses as a paper weight on his writing desk the summit of one of the highest mountains in Africa. Dr. Buchner, an African traveler of some fame, broke the piece of rock from the highest point of Mount Kilima-Njaro, which is on German-African ground, and presented it to the Emperor.

Queer Names of Gypsies.

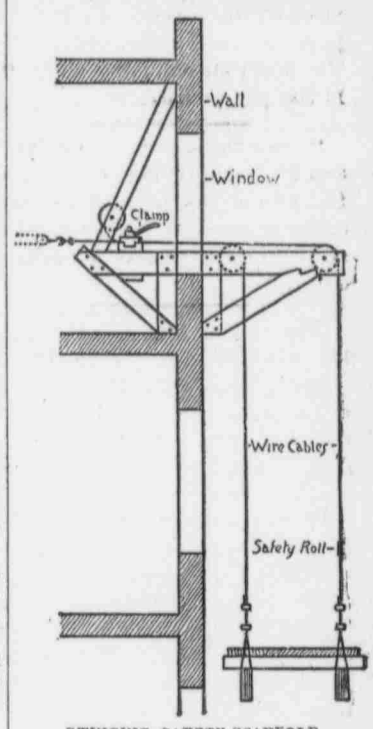
It is reported that a letter posted in America and addressed to "One-Eyed Joe Lee, his van, England," was duly delivered to the addressee, a gypsy in a midland village. Joe answered the note, which was from an old comrade in the States, and his reply was addressed to "Red Jack Lavell, van or prison, U. S. A."—London Tit-Bits.

SAFETY SCAFFOLD.

Swinging From Above, It Has Many Advantages Over the Old Type.

The day of the old-fashioned wooden scaffold for building construction is rapidly passing, at least on large work, says the Engineering Record. Instead of the once familiar staging of slender wooden posts, X-braced with boards, with its put-logs and loose board platforms, several forms of working stages have come into use which can be more rapidly erected and removed, are safer and more economical, and have other advantages. A safety swinging scaffold designed particularly for use in the facing of high buildings of steel frame or ferro concrete construction which have an outside covering of brick, terra cotta or stone has recently been patented by a construction company of Cincinnati, Ohio, and successfully used by them on the fifteen-story concreted steel Ingalls Building, now nearly completed.

The new scaffold consists substantially of a platform in sections, suspended by wire cables from brackets



SWINGING SAFETY SCAFFOLD.

supported by the walls of the building at window openings in an upper story, as indicated in the drawing. Each pair of cables supporting the platform sections passes over two sheaves in the horizontal member of a bracket and are held by a clamp inside the building. The platform may be raised or lowered by means of a block and tackle attached to the cables and may be held at any height convenient for the work. The platforms have solid floors, preventing the dropping of materials and an outside guard rail insuring the safety of the men. Preferably the sections are placed to abut, so as to form a continuous staging along a whole side or clear around the building, so that the work may be completely finished to any given level before raising the scaffold. Other advantages of this scaffold besides those indicated are that the sidewalk and the portions of the building below it are not obstructed and the work below may be left completely finished instead of having put-log holes to be filled afterward.

A Smuggler's Nest.

Arundel was once a prosperous seaport. In the time of the Fitzalan earls it was a kind of little Portsmouth and one of the southern gates of the kingdom. The earl, who fought at Crecy, was thus able to land his prisoners and his loot at his own door. By the way, it was out of the ransom obtained for these prisoners that the original great hall at Arundel Castle is said to have been built. Arundel in those days looked upon piracy with a lenient eye, unless the pirates happened to be aliens, when retribution sudden and severe fell upon them. Later in the centuries it was a nest of smugglers. Indeed, it is scarce fifty years ago that a cargo of contraband was successfully landed close by.

The particular "Smuggler Bill" who ran it came in the guise of a peaceful collier captain, and when the coast guard boarded him at the river mouth a well-planned squabble with the cabin boy about his light refreshments threw him off the scent. A regular pilot worked the vessel up the Arun, but at Ford, where the water was slack, the captain himself took a turn at the wheel and accidentally ran her aground. As she could not float again till next high tide the pilot went home for the night, and by the time he returned next morning the "stuff" was safe ashore. He noticed that the vessel was higher in the water, but he could prove nothing, though he suspected much. The clever captain had outwitted the customs.—London Tatler.

Japanese Laws.

During the twelve last sessions of the Imperial Diet altogether 500 new laws, 3500 new regulations and 2000 minor decisions were passed and signed by the Mikado.